



# Call for Proposals Spring Symposium 2024

## ***Museums at the Heart***

**Date:** Saturday April 27, 2024

**Location:** Downtown Edmonton

Museums play social, environmental, and ethical roles in their communities. The impact of museums extends far beyond the confines of their physical structures, reaching into the very fabric of the communities and spaces they inhabit. Museums build communities of practice through cross-sector collaboration to address needs in their community and become active participants in greater social change. This work starts by thinking beyond the walls of the museum. Museums often occupy physical spaces at the heart of communities, leading to evolving challenges as urban cores and rural population centres grapple with societal challenges like homelessness, addiction, disconnection, and unemployment. By building new connections outside the museum, whether face-to-face or using new technologies, museums can increase their relevance and impact in their immediate community and beyond.

The Alberta Museums Association's (AMA) 2024 Spring Symposium aims to explore how museums can reach beyond their walls and engage ethically with the spaces and communities they occupy. The program will have four pillars:

- Reciprocity
- Cross-sectoral communities of practice
- Environment (cultural / natural / urban)
- Museums as community spaces

Session themes or topics could include:

- Community collaboration
- Holding space for community
- Social responsibility
- Community engagement outside of the physical institution
- Environmental sustainability practices within the museum's larger community
- The exploration of physical or psychological barriers to certain communities (i.e., admission fees, lack of accessibility, historical trauma, lack of representation, etc.)
- Museum responses to social issues
- Systems of access and authority
- Place-based or land-based learning

All session proposals will be reviewed by the Symposium Program Committee. Complete the [online session proposal form](#) by 11:59 p.m. on October 29, 2023.

For more information about the AMA and the Spring Symposium, please visit [our website](#).